

CONFIDENTIAL

28 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, USIB
SUBJECT : Termination of the NIS Committee

Here are the minutes for the final NIS Committee Meeting. It occurs to me that there should be some official USIB action or noting of the fact that the NIS Committee no longer exists. If I can be of any help to you in arranging for the funeral, please let me know.


JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman
NIS Committee

Attachment:
Minutes, NIS Committee Meeting No. 590,
19 June 1974

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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING No. 590

19 June 1974

Members Present

Mr. F. H. Capps

Mr. E. J. Burlando

Mr. J. K. King, Chairman

State

DIA

Air Force

CIA

CIA

CIA

The Chairman introduced [] of the Product Review Group, Intelligence Community Staff, who was attending in connection with the item on DIA's NIS replacement.

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1. NIS General Survey Chapters Awaiting Publication

The Chairman announced that thirty-five General Survey Chapters were at the printers awaiting publication. Except for the General Survey on the USSR, to be disseminated as a package the third week of June, the chapters of the remaining General Surveys would be disseminated individually as published.

2. General Policy and Plans

a. NIS Inventory

A final issue of the Inventory of Available NIS Publications will be published, to include all NIS "on the shelf" at the conclusion of the Program.

b. Supplemental Dissemination of NIS

CIA will continue to service requests for supplemental dissemination of NIS publications as long as the stock lasts; no reprints will be made.

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c. NIS Reproducibles

The summary map reproducibles will be retained in the files of Cartography Division of OBGI and will be available to DIA upon request. All other NIS reproducibles will be destroyed during the next 3 months. DIA was offered, but did not accept, custody of the reproducibles for all graphics other than the summary map.

d. NIS Release Procedures

file

The Committee discussed what procedures should be followed for releasing NIS upon termination of the NIS Committee. It was agreed that the NIS should be handled like other products, with decisions on release being left to the producer. The USIB agency sponsoring the release should refer the request to the producer. Requests involving DIA-produced NIS should be referred to [redacted] those involving CIA-produced NIS should be referred to [redacted] of OBGI.

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e. Factbook

The Chairman noted that the Factbook is under review (i.e., coverage, scope, classification, user interest, frequency of revision, etc.); changes indicated by this review are planned for the January 1975 issue. Contributions to the Factbook will continue to be made by former NIS Factbook producers.

3. DIA NIS Replacement Publication

There was lengthy discussion of the DIA plan for an NIS replacement publication (to be called "Country Studies") and of a proposed contractual arrangement for fulfilling DIA requirements for material formerly produced by CIA for the NIS. The DIA Member indicated that his agency doesn't feel it can participate in joint funding as called for in the proposed contractual arrangements, and he had doubts about DIA's ability to assist in printing. Furthermore, he said that the Country Studies Program itself was in serious jeopardy because of personnel decrements being imposed on DIA. The State representative and the Chairman, speaking for CIA, both expressed grave doubts that their agencies would contribute to joint funding of a contract for producing a replacement publication. [redacted] indicated his intention to pursue further the possibility of joint funding.

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4. Termination of the NIS Committee

The Chairman stated that the responsibilities of the NIS Committee have been completed with the conclusion of this meeting, and terminated its functions. He expressed his gratitude to the Committee members for the support they and their agencies have provided to the NIS Program over such a long period of time.



JOHN KERRY KING

Distribution:

- 8 - NIS Committee
- 1 - Exec Secy/USIB
- 1 - IC Staff
- 1 - DDI
- 1 - DDO
- 1 - OCI/RES
- 1 - SA/ER
- 2 - D/OSI
- 1 - PS/BGI
- 3 - OD/BGI

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1. Watch Report No. 1195

After incorporating a change suggested by Dr. Cline, the Watch Report was approved as amended.

2.



Mr. Forbush commented that this estimate was prepared in a relatively short period of time in response to a request from the State Department. He noted that a number of changes had been circulated and agreed upon during the past several days.

Dr. Cline said that the estimate was appreciated and that it had been done promptly and skillfully.

The Board then approved the subject estimate as circulated.

No member raised objection to the release of this estimate to

USIA.

✓ 3. Oral Report by Chairman
of the NIS Committee
(USIB-M-644, item 5, 28 June)

The Acting Chairman invited Dr. John Kerry King, Chairman of the NIS Committee, to present his oral briefing.

Dr. King said he met with the NIS Committee on 11 July following the USIB Meeting of 28 June.

Drawing primarily upon the USIB Minutes he reported his understanding of the situation to the Committee as follows:

a. The NIS Program would be terminated before the end of FY 1974 as a result of budget and manpower reductions imposed upon CIA.

b. The NIS Committee would work out a plan to phase out the program and would submit that plan to USIB in the near future. (Work had already begun on this in concert with the NIS Committee Members.)

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c. CIA would consider ways and means of salvaging the Factbook. (By 11 July, he had been assured by Dr. Proctor that necessary budget and positions would be available to continue the Factbook and he so informed the Committee, pointing out that contributions and cooperation as in the past would be essential.)

d. That there was little the Committee -- or CIA -- could do to assist DIA in determining what parts of the DIA-produced NIS coverage DIA might want to continue to produce and to publish in existing or new DoD publications. Needless to say, the Committee and CIA would help with records, files, suggestions, and any other feasible manner.

He tabled a draft memorandum, at the NIS Committee meeting, to USIB that set forth a phaseout plan and a CIA agreement to carry on its part of the Factbook. The memorandum sought USIB approval of the phase-out plan and the Factbook action, and general approval of any forthcoming DIA proposal to incorporate useful NIS products into its own publications.

He said that in the discussion which followed, it was clear his was not the only understanding of the situation. In the end, the other NIS Committee Members declined to approve the draft memorandum. In sum, the difference of view revolved around three points:

a. The sense of the USIB Meeting of 28 June was not necessarily to abolish the Program. The NIS Committee was invited to prepare a proposal as to what could be salvaged.

b. The status of NSCID No. 3 (17 February 1972) with regard to the responsibility of production of intelligence of common concern.

c. A DIA study group is reviewing DoD's requirements for intelligence formerly fulfilled by the NIS. It will determine what parts of the DIA-produced sections DIA will continue to produce and incorporate into departmental publications. The study will also determine what requirements for basic intelligence DIA will have to levy on CIA. The DIA study group target date is in September. Any further NIS Committee recommendation to USIB should await the results of the DIA study and clarification of the general areas of confusion mentioned above.

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Meanwhile, he said, practical considerations are exerting heavy pressure on the Program. The NIS Division has shriveled from [redacted] since February. Contracts with our research groups in Commerce had to be drawn up for the new fiscal year. They have been written for six months only -- through December 1973.

Dr. King said that he needed clear guidance as to whether in fact the Program will be terminated in FY 1974. He distributed a phaseout plan for USIB consideration.

Mr. Colby said he wished to clarify the discussion from the previous USIB Meeting on this subject. He said that because CIA is faced with budgetary reductions, it is necessary to terminate the NIS Program. Part of the termination process involves preparation of recommended changes to NSCID No. 3. CIA is proceeding with the termination of the NIS Program on the assumption that the NSCID will be amended.

General Deane reported that DIA and the three services were studying what could be produced by DIA. They are in the process of soliciting comments from commanders in the field. He said that DIA would continue providing inputs to the NIS Program until the end of CY 1973 and was preparing to phase into production of certain essential parts of the program by Spring. This would not, however, include political and economic subjects. Dr. Proctor suggested that DIA take an early look at the contracts with Commerce which expire at the end of 1973 in case DIA might want to take over some of them.

Dr. Cline said that he hoped DIA would pick up those parts of the Program that it could, but that the timing of DIA's action need not precede the questions before the Board involving the phaseout and termination of the community wide NIS Program. He said that the Department regretted losing the Program; while the product was not indispensable it had been very useful, especially the political and economic sections. He also expressed interest in developing some procedure for retaining other aspects of the product such as the sections on foreign intelligence services. He raised the possibility that some political and economic information might be produced on an unclassified basis by outside contractors. He believed this would not require an extensive staff. Dr. Proctor responded that it had been his experience that good supervision of an outside project required a considerable staff and expressed doubt that any significant savings in money or manpower could be achieved by use of contractors.

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Mr. Colby said that CIA could be responsive to specific requirements, particularly involving national intelligence problems, but did not wish to continue a specific program with its own internal dynamics. Requirements should not be stated on a continuous scheduled basis.

Dr. Proctor said that he wished to insure that the discussion did not result in ambiguous interpretation. He requested a clear statement that the existing Program is to be terminated with the assumption that NSCID No. 3 will be changed. He observed that alternative proposals, e. g., production by external contract, might be considered by the community at a later date.

The discussion which followed included a number of comments regarding the provision of other services of common concern in an era of tightened budgets and reduced personnel.

All Board Principals indicated their concurrence in Dr. Cline's suggestion that the USIB Minutes reflect the sense of regret at the termination of this long standing and valuable Program.

5X1 Dr. King noted that some nice things had been said about his and [] contributions at the last meeting, but that he felt the record should reflect a much broader sense of appreciation. He observed that the Program had lasted some twenty-eight years and that hundreds of good people had been involved, many for their entire working careers. He said that all of these people deserved recognition and an expression of deep appreciation for their services. General Walters concurred fully in Mr. King's remarks and, on behalf of the Board and himself, he expressed appreciation for the substantial, lasting and influential contributions made by those involved in the NIS Program. He noted that there had been almost universal expression of regret that the Program had to be terminated.

The Board then noted the termination of the NIS Program and approved the phaseout plan submitted by the Chairman of the NIS Committee as follows:

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1. General Survey

a. Program will be terminated by the end of FY 1974.

b. NIS General Survey production programming for FY 1974 will be limited to the following countries:

The NIS production schedule for FY 1974, approved by the NIS Committee on 24 January 1973, is amended to reflect this change.

c. All inputs from contributing agencies will reach the NIS Division of OBGI, CIA, by 1 January 1974. The remaining 6 months of FY 1974 will be devoted to clearing the pipeline and making proper disposition of the files and records. (At present 22 General Surveys -- including the 5 listed above -- remain in the pipeline, plus 3 or 4 detailed sections.)

2. Inventory

a. NIS publications in the inventory at the end of FY 1974 (approximately 2,000 titles, 3,200 cu. ft.) will continue to be available for dissemination through established channels from CIA until existing stocks are depleted.

b. CIA does not plan to continue to reprint on demand titles out of stock. Any NIS reproducibles desired by DIA will be turned over to DIA for retention.

3. Factbook

a. CIA will continue to compile, coordinate, edit, publish, and disseminate an interagency Factbook. It will resemble closely the NIS Factbook in format, scope, and method and scheduling of production.

b. Factbook contributions and cooperation from the DoD, the Department of State, and others must continue if the Factbook is to continue.

Executive Secretary

Adjournment: 1112 hours

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Admiral de Poix said that he wished to comment on [] 25X
valuable contributions from DIA's point of view. He observed that, while
there naturally had been stresses and strain, he personally valued his
association with [] and felt that he had done a great job.
Admiral de Poix wished [] every success in the future.

3. Welcome to Mr. J. Foster Collins

Mr. Schlesinger welcomed Mr. Collins (former member of BNE)
to his first meeting as the new Treasury Department Alternate Member of
USIB.

4. Watch Report No. 1192

Approved as amended.

✓ 5. Termination of the National
Intelligence Survey Program
(USIB-D-51.1/22, 19 June 1973)

Dr. Proctor introduced the subject by referring to the memorandum
issued by the Chairman, NIS Committee. Dr. Proctor traced the trends of
the NIS Program since 1959, noting that there had been steady reductions in
resources and output since that time. He said that in the past there were
many contributors to the NIS Program. Now, however, the principal
contributors are CIA, approximately 75 percent; and DoD, approximately
25 percent. He noted that this allocation of resources did not include the
review function performed by the State Department. The principal point
was, he said, that the overall reduction of resources required the elimina-
tion of this Program at least insofar as CIA was concerned.

Mr. Schlesinger commented that the ultimate responsibility for
this Program rested with Mr. Colby as the DCI designate. Mr. Colby
responded that the decision to cut the resources for the NIS Program was
based on the overall reduction imposed on CIA; the problem was being
presented to USIB for consideration as a matter under USIB auspices and
in view of the fact that USIB Principals represent the primary customers
for the product.

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Several members stated that the NIS product was most useful within their organizations and expressed regret at the proposed termination. Admiral de Poix, noting that DIA and the Services were the principal users, said he would like to see as much as possible of the Program continued. He reported that a survey conducted by DIA early in 1970 ranked the NIS General Survey 11th in usefulness out of 131 general intelligence products. He said that DIA and the Services would have to examine the problem to see what could be salvaged. Admiral Rectanus stressed the importance of the NIS product to the Navy, particularly to ships at sea. Dr. Proctor said that it might be possible to preserve the Fact Book in some other form but that this would require additional consideration.

After hearing Dr. Proctor's comments on the resources devoted to the NIS Program as currently constituted, the Acting State Member expressed regret at the proposed termination especially in light of the relatively small amount of money involved. He said that State was prepared to continue its review function, but that it had no additional resources to devote to the Program.

Mr. Colby suggested that Dr. King along with his NIS Committee prepare a proposal for Board consideration. The proposal should take into account the USIB discussion with regard to what could be salvaged from the NIS product. It was also noted that the National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3 dealing with the NIS Program would require modification if the Program is not continued. The Chairman commented that first the Board needed to determine what could be salvaged from the current NIS Program.

Dr. Proctor concluded that he had proposed the elimination of the NIS Program with mixed feelings. On the one hand, he was faced with resource reductions. On the other hand, he noted that the current NIS publications were excellent products. A great deal of credit he said should go to Dr. John King, [redacted] and a number of others. Mr. Schlesinger said that Dr. Proctor's comments were well taken and should be noted by the Board.

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(REVISED)

The Board then:

a. Agreed to instruct the NIS Committee to prepare a proposal for Board consideration regarding what could be salvaged from the NIS product based on the discussion, particularly:

Whether DIA could produce parts of the NIS product for inclusion in DIA publications; and

whether CIA could continue to produce the Factbook or its equivalent.

b. Noted that NSCID No. 3 will require modification if the NIS Program is terminated or sharply cut back.

Executive Session

6. The Chairman convened the Board in executive session at 1120 hours to hear and discuss a briefing on a sensitive subject by Mr. Carl Duckett.

7. Objectives for the Intelligence Community

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Colby distributed a new draft memorandum to the President on the subject of Objectives for the Intelligence Community. He requested that the Board Principals forward any comments they may have, either by memorandum or telephone, to General Lew Allen by 5 July 1973.


Executive Secretary

Adjournment: 1140 hours

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